

Document No.
 NO CHANGE in Class.
 DECLASSIFIED
 Class. CHANGED TO
 DD Form 100, 1-77
 Auth:
 Date: 3/4/78 By:
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 Next Review Date: 2008

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

25X1A2g

COUNTRY Greece

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Possibilities of a Military Coup

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 27 February 1947

25X1A6a

PAGES

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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25X1X6

SUPPLEMENT

1. [REDACTED] considers the chances of an attempted military coup slim but believes that even so Generals Zervas, the new Minister of Public Order, and Ventiras, the Chief of Staff, are foolhardy enough to try it if the situation becomes very bad. Support would come mostly from junior, not senior, officers. There are, however, no present indications that a coup is being planned in any quarter. [REDACTED] considers that Zervas is heading for an ultimate coup and that his chances are good. 25X1X6

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It must be considered, however, that Zervas now holds a good position from which all sources agree he will build up private bands and commandos at great expense to the Government. This, plus the support of Tsaldaris, Mavromachalis and Reppas, as well as the cooperation he is getting from the Minister of War Stratos points up the danger inherent in the situation if a moderate solution on a political level is not soon reached.

- B-3 2. The most "dangerous" military figure is General Alestas in charge of the Athens Mechanized Unit. He is a tool of Mavromachalis, Reppas and Zervas, and was placed in a key post in order to control Athens in any event. He would obey their orders. Other right wing officers capable of starting or abetting a coup in addition to Generals Ventiras and Zervas are Generals Ciantzis (sic), in charge of the Army of Northern Greece, and Goulas of the General Staff.
3. General Papadopoulos, who is head of the Officers Academy, his brother who is in charge of the 3rd Mountain Brigade, and General Tountas in charge of the Cretan Brigade are democratic officers on active duty but not in complete sympathy with the present Government. All of these men are, however, loyal.
4. The following officers, now purged and inactive, remain loyal to the Government: Generals Dromazos, Bitsanis, Manettas, Spanopoulos, Vlachaitopoulos, Protopoulos, Georgoulis, and Sterghiopoulos. The first six named are friends of General Plastiras and none of them would attempt anything without his approval.
5. Generals Spais and Nikolaou are more leftist, though not Communist. These men are capable of trying something but this is most unlikely at present.

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